Establishment of new navodaya Vidyalayas

1359. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been cleared to establish 28 more Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and the number of Navodaya Vidyalayas to be opened/allotted to North Eastern Region; and

(c) the number of Navodaya schools to be opened in Assam and their location?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has approved a proposal for opening of 28 new Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) in the country at a total expenditure of Rs. 388.08 crore. New JNVs have been sanctioned in 7 districts in North Eastern Region, of which 3 districts are in Assam *i.e.* Baksa, North Cachar Hills and Dhubri. However, the JNV at Dhubri has not been made functional for want of temporary accommodation.

Programmes for literacy

1360. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of various programmes that Government have undertaken to speard literacy and curb drop-outs in different States of the country;

(b) the positive results derived during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06; and

(c) what support Government have decided to give to the families where poverty is the prime reason for drop-outs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The names of various programmes being implemented by the Government to spread literacy and curb drop-outs are as follows:—

(i) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

(ii) Mid-Day Meal Scheme

(iii) Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya

(iv) Total Literacy Campaign

(v) Post Literacy Programme

(vi) Continuing Education Programme.

(b) As per the available information, the drop-out rates at primary level have been declining steadily from 39.03% in 2001-02 to 31.36% in 2003-04. The drop-out rate for girls during the same period has shown a more encouraging reduction at 11.64%. In respect of the literacy programmes, according to the information available, 39.74 lakh persons have been made literate during 2004-05.

(c) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, additional incentives like free textbooks for SC/ST children and for all girls are given. Cooked mid-day meal is being provided to children studying at primary stage in Government schools, Government aided schools, schools run by local bodies, Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) and Alternative & Innovative Education (AIE) centres under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme. Under the scheme of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, special residential schools are being set up for the girl child belonging to SC, ST, Other Backward Castes and Minorities in educationally backward blocks having low female literacy. Under the National Literacy Mission, nearly 35% of the beneficiaries belong to the SC/ST community and nearly 60% of the total beneficiaries are women.

Free text books to students

†1361. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provide free text books to the students of Class-I to VIII under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) to what extent this scheme has been successful; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to make it popular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Free textbooks are provided to all girls as well as children belonging

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.